11:League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

X. MEDICO-SOCIAL POLICY

744 657 758 Sanitary conditions in the towns and rural administrative areas are under the supervision of the competent district medical officer, who also inspects sales of foodstuffs. He is responsible for measures for the prevention of infectious diseases and for seeing that all persons suffering from venereal disease receive treatment.

It has not yet been possible to apply all the recommendations of the 1931 European Conference on Rural Hygiene. Health centres had already been set up (different from those recommended by the Conference) in 1929, before the Conference met. They are staffed by doctors, nurses and midwives, and advise pregnant women and mothers. The responsibility for establishing them rests with the Department of Labour and Social Insurance (Ministry of the Interior), which acts through the Union of Maternity and Child Welfare Organisations. There are at present twenty-two such health centres.

In 1938, 210 health stations were opened, each serving an area with an average of 10,000 inhabitants. Every health station has a medical officer and a midwife, the former being responsible for giving medical assistance to the inhabitants and for supervising the health of school-children. The stations are maintained jointly by the Ministry of the Interior and the municipalities. The doctors and midwives are paid a small fixed salary, and also receive reduced rate fees from their patients. Indigent persons are given free medical and obstetrical assistance. Persons suffering from venereal disease are treated free of charge by the doctor attached to the health station.